

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE  
CONTACT THE FOLLOWING  
INDIVIDUALS:**

**Emergency Food Programs**

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**Food Safety**

Public Health Seattle & King County  
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**Public Safety**

West Precinct Community Police Team  
Seattle Police Department  
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**Parks Use/Permits**

George Long  
Seattle Parks Department  
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City of Seattle  
Human Services  
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Patricia McInturff,  
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Mayor

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# A Guide to Providing Meals for Homeless and/or Hungry People in the City of Seattle

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**“Hunger haunts America. Millions of people  
across our land are regularly without enough  
food to sustain them... Hunger in this land of  
plenty is morally unacceptable.”**

Food Research and Action Center Statement of  
Principles:  
Fighting Hunger in America

There are over 30 emergency meal programs in Seattle.  
Aside from providing hot, nutritious food to  
homeless and hungry people, many of these

programs offer other services, including shelter, job  
training and employment assistance, drug/alcohol  
treatment, mental health counseling, hygiene  
services, and medical care.

In addition to these programs, several groups and  
individuals serve snacks and meals outdoors.  
Although serving something as simple as  
sandwiches or soup prepared in a church kitchen  
(home preparation is not permitted) seems safe  
enough, it can present many problems and hazards:

**Scheduling Conflicts.** The time you choose to  
serve a meal may conflict with meals being served  
nearby. You may end up with only a few people  
showing any interest in eating what you have to  
offer, or cause fewer people to show up for a  
regularly scheduled meal, thus causing food to go  
to waste.

**Health and Safety Hazards.** When you serve  
a meal outdoors, food and serving containers are  
discarded by the meal participants. If the garbage  
is not properly disposed of, and the area is not  
thoroughly cleaned, what is left behind feeds rats  
and carries disease to people (homeless included)  
who live and work in the area.

**Foodborne Illness.** The Health Department has  
strict rules and regulations regarding the storage  
and serving of food. Food must be maintained at  
proper temperatures to prevent spoilage. Proper  
hand-washing, a top priority when working with  
food, is not usually possible at a park or other  
outdoor facility. These rules were developed to  
ensure that homeless people, who are already at  
risk, do not get sick from eating spoiled or  
contaminated food.

Because of these concerns, providing food in  
public parks is not recommended, and it is a  
violation of City ordinance to operate a food  
program in a park without a Park permit. The  
Police Department is obligated to document any  
violations, as required for any violation of law.  
Groups or individuals wishing to provide meals to  
homeless people are encouraged to offer their time

and resources to one of the established emergency  
meal programs.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

**Volunteer your time.** Meal programs need  
volunteers to prepare and serve food, clean up after  
meals are served, pick up food donations, and  
provide other support.

**Donate food.** Protein items such as meat, fish,  
peanut butter, and powdered milk are always in  
demand, as are canned goods and fresh produce.

**Make a financial contribution.** A cash donation  
to the meal program of your choice can help that  
program buy food, pay for the transportation of  
donated food, or purchase needed supplies. A  
monthly pledge provides a predictable source of  
funding, which is needed and appreciated by these  
programs.

Do you belong to a church, synagogue, or social  
group, or are you employed? If so, you can make  
an even bigger impact by encouraging your  
congregation, social club, or co-workers to “adopt”  
a meal program, and provide continuous support  
through regularly collecting food or making  
financial contributions.

## OTHER OPTIONS

The City of Seattle recognizes that some people  
prefer to work independently. For this reason, the  
Plaza at the Seattle First Presbyterian Church on 7<sup>th</sup>  
Avenue and Spring Street has been designated for  
the outdoor food distribution by groups and  
individuals wishing to provide food outdoors.  
Meal providers operating at this site shall abide by  
food handling and food safety regulations set forth  
by Public Health, Seattle-King County.

Programs listed in this brochure comply with all  
federal, state, and local regulations prohibiting  
discrimination, and all make accommodations for  
people with disabilities.

This brochure is produced and updated at least  
once annually by the City of Seattle Human  
Services Department. Some of the information was  
provided by Public Health Seattle & King County.  
This information is also available on-line at:

[www.seattle.gov/humanservices/csd/survivalservices/emergencyfood/brochure\\_guide.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/csd/survivalservices/emergencyfood/brochure_guide.htm)

**Listed below are many of the agencies which offer free meals to homeless and/or hungry people in Seattle/King County. They need your help!**

**Angeline’s**  
2030 Third Avenue  
(206) 436-8650  
Serves breakfast and lunch to homeless women seven days a week.

**Auburn Community Supper**  
100 “N” St. SE, Auburn  
(253) 833-8925  
Dinner served Mondays to people in need.

**Asian Congregate Meal Program--Legacy House**  
(206) 292-5184  
Meals served at Bush Hotel, Monday – Friday. Must be 60 years of age or older or spouse of any age.

**Asian Counseling & Referral Service**  
(206) 695-7522  
ACRS operates six meal programs, which primarily serve Cambodians, Koreans, Tongans, Samoans, Vietnamese and other Asian populations.

**Blessed Sacrament Church**  
5050 Eighth N.E.  
(206) 547-3020  
Lunch served Sundays to people in need.

**Boomtown Café**  
513 Third Avenue  
(206) 625-2989  
PLEASE CALL FIRST FOR PROGRAM OPERATION

**Bread of Life Mission**  
97 South Main Street  
(206) 682-3579  
Serves dinner daily, primarily to homeless people.

**CityTeam Ministries**  
904 Elliott Avenue West  
(206) 352-1300  
Dinner (open to all) served Tuesday-Saturday.

**Community Lunch**  
1710 – 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
(206) 322-7500  
Lunch served 12-1 Tuesdays and Fridays.

**Denny Place Youth Shelter**  
(206) 328-5693  
Serves dinner and breakfast to overnight shelter youth clients ages 14-17.

**Downtown Emergency Service Center**  
517 Third Avenue, (206) 464-1570  
Serves dinner Sunday-Saturday to overnight shelter clients.

**El Centro de la Raza**  
2524 16th Avenue South  
(206) 329-7960  
Serves lunch Monday-Friday to men, women, and children in need.

**Family Kitchen**  
803 Terry  
(206) 322-2447  
Serves dinner Monday-Friday to women, families, children and men over 55.

**First Avenue Senior Service Center**  
2015 Third Avenue  
(206) 441-9830  
Serves lunch daily and dinner four days a week, primarily to homeless people.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
1215 Thomas Street  
(206) 623-3779  
Serves lunch every Wednesday to people in need.

**Jubilee Dinners**  
111 N.E. 80th  
(206) 523-7476  
Serves dinner the last Sunday of each month to people in the community in need.

**Lazarus Day Center**  
416 Second Avenue, Extension South  
(206) 623-7219  
Serves lunch Monday-Friday to women and men 50 years of age or older.

**Lunchtime at St. Lukes**  
**St. Luke’s Episcopal Church**  
5710 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N.W.  
(206) 784-3119

**Millionair Club**  
2515 Western Avenue, (206) 728-5600  
Serves breakfast and lunch five days a week.

**Monday Feeding Program**  
225 North 70<sup>th</sup>, (206) 782-3776  
Lunch served every Monday to people in need.

**New Horizon Ministries**  
2709 Third Avenue, (206) 374-0866  
Breakfast served to youth 21 years old and under Tuesdays. Dinner served to youth 22 years old and under five days a week.

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**  
508 Broadway, (206) 324-1305  
Serves breakfast daily to people in need and are sober.

**Outdoor Meals - First Presbyterian Church Plaza**  
7th Avenue and Spring Street,  
(206) 372-4615/(206)684-0281

**Bible Study Outreach Ministries**  
Serves late lunch on Saturdays.  
**Kay Abe – The Lord’s Table**  
Serves dinner Monday-Thursday.  
**Mamma’s Hands Phone Program**  
Cell phone use Wednesday evenings.  
**OPERATION: Sack Lunch**  
Serves lunch Monday – Friday.  
**Outstretch Ministries**  
Serves early lunch on Saturdays.

**Special meals around the holidays.**

**Outreach Breakfast**  
400 East Pike, (206) 322-7411  
Breakfast served two Saturdays a month, primarily to community members in need.

**PACIFIC ASIAN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM**  
**Filipino Senior Services**  
5470 ML King Jr. Way South, (206) 324-0269  
Serves lunch Tuesdays and Thursdays to people in need.  
**Laotian & H’mong Senior Services**  
6721 51st Avenue South  
(206) 324-0269  
Serves lunch Tuesdays and Fridays to people in need.  
**Polynesian Nutrition Program**  
3701 S. Oregon St.  
Serves lunch Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to people in need.

**Phinney Neighborhood Association Soup Kitchen @ St. John Lutheran Church & Calvary Lutheran**  
5515 Phinney Ave. No. & 7002 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave N.W.  
(206) 783-2244  
Serves Monday lunch at Calvary Lutheran.  
Serves Wednesday lunch and Tuesday dinner at St. John’s to people in need.

**Sacred Heart/St. Vincent de Paul**  
205 Second Avenue North  
283-2104  
Lunch served Thursdays to people in need.

**Saturday Kitchen**  
4554 12th N.E.  
(206) 632-5188  
Lunch served every Saturday to community members in need.

**Seattle Indian Center**  
611 12th Avenue, 329-8700  
Lunch served Monday-Friday to Center and Seattle Indian Health Board clients, and to neighborhood residents.

**The Friday Feast**  
University Temple United Methodist Church  
N.E. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.E., 726-4289  
Dinner served Fridays to people in need. All welcome. No restrictions.

**Union Gospel Mission**  
318 Second Avenue, Extension South  
622-5177  
Free lunch served six days a week. Also runs a low cost cafeteria for low-income persons.

**University District Street Ministry**  
45th & 16th N.E.  
522-4366  
Serves dinner five days a week to youth.

**William Booth Center**  
811 Maynard Avenue, 621-0145  
Serves breakfast and dinner daily to shelter and transitional housing residents.

**Youthcare’s Orion Center**  
1020 Virginia, 622-5555  
Lunch and dinner served Monday-Friday to homeless youth 11-19 years of age.